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(54) Title: FERMENTATION PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PRAVASTATIN

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a fermentation process for the preparation of substantially pure pravastatin. The process provides a method of producing pravastatin by microbial hydroxylation of compactin (ML-236B) by maintaining a concentration of compactin at not less than 300 µg /ml during the process. The process produces substantially pure pravastatin with reduced related impurities. The invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions that include the substantially pure pravastatin.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, WPI Data, PAJ, FSTA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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